IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

O'CONNOR et al Atty. Ref.: 604-697; Confirmation No.

Appl. No. Unassigned Group: Unassigned

Filed: October 24, 2003 Examiner: Unassigned

For: TIBIAL COMPONENT

October 24, 2003

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In order to place the above-identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the application as follows: